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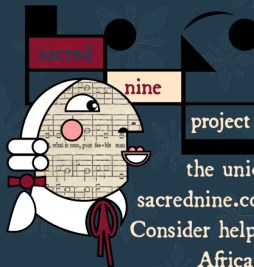
Institute for the Arts and Humanities,
Dr. Patricia S. Parker, Director, and Ruel W. Tyson Distinguished Professor of Communication
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for the support of E. Katherine Hargrove's construction of our heroine's garments:
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

for coordinating the wonderful student performers and for vocal coaching:
Jeanne Fischer, Teaching Professor and Area Head of Voice,
Department of Music, UNC

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Timothy W. Sparks, Lecturer of Voice, Department of Music, UNC

for production support:
Jesse Moorefield, Production Manager, Department of Music, UNC



C. Leonard Raybon is Associate Professor of Music, Director of Choirs, The Virginia Beer Professor in Singing, and the Interim Artistic Director of Summer Lyric Theatre, Tulane University. He is also the founder of the unique Sacred Nine Project. To know more, visit sacrednine.com and listen to Sacred Nine Project Podcast. Consider helping us with the inaugural The Jewel Prize for African American Spirituals: sacrednine.com/jewel.



Sacred Nine Project:
The Mending Sampler

Lanah Sawyer and the cost of courage in Revolutionary America



Saturday, October 28, 2023

5:30 PM & 7:30 PM

The historic Person Hall

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Image: Bequest of Henry Francis du Pont, Courtesy of Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Inspired by
The Sewing Girl's Tale:
Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America
by John Wood Sweet

co-sponsored by
Department of History
Department of Music &
Institute for the Arts and Humanities
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Period wardrobe reproductions handmade by E. Katherine Hargrove
& sponsored by
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

The Mending Sampler

In early fall 2022, I saw *The Sewing Girl's Tale* on the new releases shelf at a local bookstore. Upon reading the inside dust jacket, I knew right away that there was music in this story, and by the time I turned the final page, my brain was teeming with ideas, inspired by the book's thoughtful and artful depictions by John Wood Sweet, who writes:

As a young woman, Lanah Sawyer had a rare kind of courage. Only seventeen, a stepchild in a working family, she was easy to dismiss as a mere "sewing girl." Yet, when an affluent gentleman showed an interest in her, she dared to imagine that he might really be interested in her. Violently, he dashed that dream—leaving her disoriented, distressed, and unmoored. Then, she gathered her courage and did what no one else in the nation's biggest city had done in half a century: she charged a gentleman with rape. Then, as now, most survivors of sexual assaults by acquaintances don't make any official complaint—and for good reason. But Lanah Sawyer refused to be shamed. She refused to be silenced. What followed was a harrowing ordeal—and a remarkable vindication. THE SEWING GIRL'S TALE is the story of this remarkable young woman's search for justice, her determination to move beyond what had been done to her, to rebuild her life—to live with the courage of her conviction that she, too, was someone who mattered.

Beyond the details of the sexual assault trial and subsequent seduction trial, we do not know much about Lanah Sawyer. The Mending Sampler aims to offer snapshots of her life, based on several texts and tunes from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. What was her education? How was she socialized regarding gender? Was there a model for her own dreams of a romantic partner? How good could her odds have been, a young woman from the 18th century accusing a man of higher station of sexual assault? How can she speak to us in the 21st century? How much did her courage cost her? How much does it cost us all?

...and is it worth it?

the cost
of courage

The Performers



Eden Rosenbaum, soprano
Lanah Sawyer
Ensemble



Isabelle Kosempa, mezzo-soprano
Ann Carey
Ensemble



Cameron Davis, tenor
Narrator, *Brockhorst Livingston*
The Judge & Ensemble



Ethan Bunch, baritone
Henry Bedlow
Ensemble



C. Leonard Raybon, baritone
John Callanan
Ensemble



Daniel Spiegel
piano & harpsichord

John Wood Sweet
Professor of History,
UNC
author,
The Sewing Girl's Tale



E. Katherine Hargrove
Apprentice milliner
and mantua-maker,
Colonial Williamsburg

& Contributors

The Mending Sampler

image on this page
was part of E. Katherine
Hargrove's research in
planning her historical
reproductions for
this evening

reference for hat



Francesco Bartolozzi (1728-1815)

made in 1789

stippling, etching

1940,1109.77

©The Trustees of the British Museum

Image to the right:
from Isaac Watts' *Divine and Moral Songs
for the Use of Children* (1800 ed.)

a time to get,

PROLOGUE

text

Hannah Hadassah Hicok's own
1844 transcription of her 1784 diary

THE BATTERY

texts

A Dictionary of the English Language (1785)
by Samuel Johnson; *Report of the Trial
of Henry Bedlow for Committing a Rape
on Lanah Sawyer* (1793) by William Wyche;
original lyrics by C. Leonard Raybon

Before the Battery

Cameron Davis as Narrator
& Brockholst Livingston,
& The Ensemble

My name is Lanah Sawyer

Eden Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer

Around the Battery

Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer



*violation
violation*

My name is Henry Bedlow

Ethan Bunch as Henry Bedlow
Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer

I know the snake will shed its skin

Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer

I, Mother Carey

Isabelle Kosempa as Ann Carey

After the Battery

Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer,
& The Ensemble

I am John Callanan

C. Leonard Raybon as John Callanan
Rosenbaum, Kosempa & Bunch as
their characters, & Davis as judge

set one: violation

and a time to lose

set titles from Ecclesiastes three

The Mending Sampler

image on this page
was part of E. Katherine
Hargrove's research in
planning her historical
reproductions for
this evening

reference for handkerchief



George Moutard Woodward (ca. 1765-1809)
"Primitive Lovers," 1792
watercolor
48.110.59
©RISD Museum

Image to the right:
from Isaac Watts' *Divine and Moral Songs
for the Use of Children* (1800 ed.)

a time to keep silence,

*education
education*

ALICE GREENWOOD'S SAMPLER, 1797
*Alice's original sampler was completed
on June 17, 1797, and is displayed this evening.*

A Funeral Thought

text
Hymns and Spiritual Songs (1707)
by Isaac Watts
Eden Rosenbaum
Isabelle Kosempa

Against Idleness and Mischief

text
*Divine and Moral Songs for the Use
of Children* (1715) by Isaac Watts
Cameron Davis
Ethan Bunch

THE AMERICAN SPELLER

text
The American Spelling Book, 1803 ed.,
by Noah Webster (first published in 1783)

Emily

Isabelle Kosempa as Emily,
C. Leonard Raybon as schoolmaster

Julia

Eden Rosenbaum as Julia,
Raybon as schoolmaster

Wretchedness and Ruin

Raybon as schoolmaster



set two: education

and a time to speak

set titles from Ecclesiastes three

The Mending Sampler

image on this page
was part of E. Katherine
Hargrove's research in
planning her historical
reproductions for
this evening

reference for gown



John Hoppner (1758-1810)
Study of a Seated Woman, undated
red chalk and gray wash
Prints and Drawings Collection, B1977.6039
©Yale Center for British Art, Paul Mellon Collection

Image to the right:
from *The Picture Gallery*;
or *Peter Prim's Portraits*
of *Good and Bad Girls and Boys* (1814)

a time to mourn,

THE ROMANTIC PARADIGM

from *The Harmony of Maine, 1794*

compiled by Supply Belcher

capitalized titles indicate tune names

FARMINGTON contains an additional melody by Raybon

UNITY

first line

'Twas my beloved spoke

text

adapted from *Song of Songs*, Chapter 2

The Ensemble

INVITATION

first line

Child of the summer

text

traditional

Eden Rosenbaum & Isabelle Kosempa

aspiration
aspiration

APPEARANCE

first line

The voice of my beloved sounds

text

Isaac Watts, adapted
from *Song of Songs*, Chapter 2

The Ensemble



FARMINGTON

first line

Who is this fair one in distress

text

Isaac Watts, adapted
from *Song of Songs*, Chapter 8

The Ensemble

set three: aspiration

and a time to dance

set titles from Ecclesiastes three

The Mending Sampler

image on this page
was part of E. Katherine
Hargrove's research in
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reproductions for
this evening

reference for hat and gown



John Hoppner (1758-1810)

ink and watercolor

Purchased as part of the Oppé Collection with
assistance from the National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund 1996

T10253

©Tate

Image to the right:
from *The Picture Gallery*;
or *Peter Prim's Portraits*
of *Good and Bad Girls and Boys* (1814)

set four: restoration

a time to read,

restoration
restoration

THE LETTER

a spurious letter, dated July 13, 1796,
produced for Henry Bedlow's defense
Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer
Ethan Bunch as Henry Bedlow

THE MENDING SAMPLER

text

Hannah Hadassah Hicok's own
1844 transcription of her 1784 diary;
original lyrics by C. Leonard Raybon;
spoken word from *The Sewing Girl's Tale*
by John Wood Sweet.

featured tune

RESTORATION from *The Southern Harmony*
and *Musical Companion* (1835)

The Ensemble

ST. MARK'S

also from *Harmony of Maine*

first line

And must this body die

text

Isaac Watts

The Ensemble

THOU GLORIOUS ORB

text

Charlotte Temple: a Tale of Truth (1791)

Eden Rosenbaum as Lanah Sawyer



and a time to sew

set titles from Ecclesiastes three